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Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01525 280610Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 COME-00 DLOS-09
CG-00 DOTE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 EB-08 CA-01 H-01 NSC-05 /097 W
----------009788 280621Z /17
P 280525Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5243
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC HONOLULU
PAGO PAGO (BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 01525

DEPT PASS GOVAMSAMOA

TOKYO FOR RFO; CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
EO:11652:GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, NZ, US
SUBJECT: US TUNA VESSEL FISHING WITHIN NZ EXCLUSIVE
- ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)

REF: (A) STATE 77179 (NOTAL), (B) WELLINGTON 1503 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: STEPS IN TRAIN INDICATE THAT THE "VOYAGEUR" PROBLEM WILL BE RESOLVED IN A TIMELY FASHION. QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL A COVERING THE TUNA SEASON AND GNZ'S LICENSING PROCEDURES ARE ANSWERED. END SUMMARY.

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1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT ACTION AND REPLY CONCERNING US TUNA VESSEL "VOYAGEUR." INFORMATION PARAS 1 AND 2 OF REFTEL A PROVIDED TO MFA OFFICIALS WHO EXPRESSED SIMILAR GRATITUDE FOR DEPARTMENT'S AND STARKIST'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE "VOYAGEUR" PROBLEM.

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2. DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT TELEPHONED EMBOFF TODAY AND ADVISED THAT "VOYAGEUR" SKIPPER AND PART-OWNER FRANK GARGAS, HAS REACHED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH NZ PELAGIC FISHING COMPANY FOR A POST-APRIL 1 CHARTER ARRANGEMENT. CHARTER AGREEMENT WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH ALREADY COVERS OTHER FOUR US REGISTERED TUNA BOATS CURRENTLY IN NZ WATERS (SEE PARA 2, REFTEL B). CHARTERING ARRANGEMENT HAS RECEIVED TODAY THE APPROVAL OF NZ CUSTOMS AND TRANSPORT AND THE VERBAL APPROVAL OF THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES. GARGAS IS EXPECTED TO BE CLEARED FROM NEW PLYMOUTH THIS EVENING TO RESUME FISH NG. (FYI: UNDER THE CHARTER, THE NZ COMPANY WILL BE PAID A ROYALTY FOR THE POST-APRIL 1 CATCH ONLY. THE TUNA ALREADY ABOARD THE "VOYAGEUR," THEREFORE, MUST BE ASSESSED BEFORE IT DEPARTS NEW PLYMOUTH. GARGAS HAS AGREED TO THIS. END FYI.(

3. RE PARA 4, REFTEL A, TUNA SEASON IS DETERMINED BY LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS AND THE MIGRATORY HABITS OF THE TUNA, NOT REPEAT NOT BY GNZ REGULATIONS.

4. RE GNZ LICENSING POLICY MENTIONED PARA 3, REFTEL A, FOREIGN FISHING LICENSES, FOR ALL SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT WHTHIN NEW ZEALAND'S EEZ, ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO VESSELS OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT
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WITH THE GNZ ON A GENERAL FISHING AGREEMENT. IN BROAD TERMS THE LICENSING PROCEDURE IS AS FOLLOWS: (A) A BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT S NEGOTIATED; (B) A FISHING PLAN DETAILING THE TYPE AND PROPOSED AMOUNT OF THE CATCH, THE LOCATION AND TIMING OF FISHING AND THE NUMBER OF VESSELS TO BE ENGAGED IS SUBMITTED TO THE GNZ BY THE FISHING NATION; (C) THE GNZ RESPONDS WITH A FEE SCHEDULE AND QUOTA ALLOCATION; (D) LICENSES BASED ON THE AGREED FISHING PLAN ARE ISSUED BY THE GNZ TO THE FISHING COUNTRY WHICH IS THEN FREE TO DISTRIBUTE THE LICENSES AS IT SEES FIT. (FYI: TO DATE THE FOREGOING PROCEDURAL PLAN IS MOSTLY HYPOTHETICAL. ONLY SOUTH KOREA HAS PROCEEDED AS FAR AS SIGNING THE GENERAL FISHING AGREEMENT AND IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT ITS DETAILED FISHING PLAN WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IN THE MEANTIME, SOUTH KOREA IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FISHING UNDER AN INTERIM LICENSING ARRANGEMENT. THE SOVIET UNION IS EXPECTED TO SIGN A GENERAL FISHING AGREEMENT WITHIN A FEW DAYS. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USSR FISHERIES MINISTRY IS EXPECTED IN WELLINGTON AT THE END OF THE WEEK TO

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CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS. GNZ SOURCES ADVISE THAT THE DELAY IN CONCLUDING THE AGREEMENT WAS NOT THE RESULT OF SNAGS BUT SIMPLY THE UNAVAILABILITY IN MOSCOW IN RECENT WEEKS OF THE SOVIETS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE FISHERIES AGREEMENT. THE TEXT OF THE SOVIET RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED AT THE NZ EMBASSY IN MOSCOW LAST WEEK AND A PRELIMINARY REVIEW INDICATES NO SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES. END FYI.)
SELDEN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED GOVAMSAMOA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TUNA, FISHING BOATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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